

Appl. No. 09/971,131  
Amdt. Dated December 20, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of September 22, 2004

**REMARKS**

Claims 1–6, 8–10, 12–16, 18–21, 23 and 24 are pending. Claims 1–6 are allowed.  
Applicant appreciates the indication of allowance for claims 1–6.

Claims 8–10, 12–16, 18–21, 23 and 24 stand rejected.

Claims 8–10, 12–16, 18–21, 23 and 24 are cancelled without prejudice.

It is believed that this amendment puts the case in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 12/20/04

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